

## CLAIMS

1. A quenching oil for reduced pressure quenching comprising (A) a base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 40 °C of 40 mm<sup>2</sup>/s or more, blended with (B) a vapor blanket breaking agent.

2. The quenching oil for reduced pressure quenching according to claim 1, wherein said base oil is a base oil that has a characteristic time of 2.5 or less, in the test of heat treating oils in JIS K 2242.

3. The quenching oil for reduced pressure quenching according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the kinematic viscosity at 40 °C of said base oil is 40 to 300 mm<sup>2</sup>/s.

4. The quenching oil for reduced pressure quenching according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the blending amount of said vapor blanket breaking agent is 5 % or more by mass based on said quenching oil.

5. A quenching method for performing quenching while adjusting the pressure on the surface of the oil, by using said quenching oil according to any of claims 1 to 4.

6. The quenching method according to claim 5, wherein the adjusting range of said pressure on the surface of the oil is from normal pressure to 13 kPa.

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